Forest land for Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka

1830. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for diversion of forest land for the purpose of completion of Upper Tunga Project in Shismoga district, which envisages irrigation of 2.34 lakhs acres and relief to over 40,000 families in drought prone areas;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thererto;

(c) the criteria adopted for deciding transfer or otherwise of forest land for irrigation and other purposes; and

(d) the details of forest lands diverted for irrigation in vaious States/ UTs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka submitted a proposal for diversion of 449.55 hectares of forest land for construction of Upper Tunga Project in district Shimoga. The proposal was rejected on 21.06.2000 by the Government due to its likely adverse impacts on ecological security and bio-diversity of the region as the proposal involves diversion of forest land from Shettihali wildlife sanctuary.

(c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not prohibit any non-foresty activity in forest areas but only regulates indiscriminate and Unnecessary diversion of forest land, which may adversel affect ecological balance and the environmental stability. Every proposal requiring forest land for non-forestry purposes is considered on merit and in case if the diversion is necessary and unavoidable, permission is accorded with suitable conditions keeping due regard to environmental security of the area.

(d) The details of forest land diverted for irrigation, in respect of the proposals received for forestry clearance from various State Governments/ UTs during the last three years *i.e.* 1999 to 30.6.2002, are enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

Forest land for Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka

Sl. No.	State	No. of Approved proposals	Forest land diverted (H.A)
1.	Orissa	8	173.006
2.	Maharashtra	61	2990.628
3.	Rajasthan	5	72.262
4.	Uttaranchal	27	8.211
5.	Gujarat	17	28.2227
6.	Punjab	5	202.388
7.	Andhra Pradesh	8	414.065
8.	Tamil Nadu	10	237.694
9.	Karnataka	6	59.90
10.	Uttar Pradesh	4	404.038
11.	Haryana	3	29.56
12.	Chhattisgarh	1	23.326
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1	4.89
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	37.00
15.	Kerala	1	0.236
	TOTAL:	159	4685.4267

Conservation of Natural Oasis

†1831. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to take some effective steps for conservation and development of 'Natural Oasis';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to protect this scheme of international importance against the administrative negligence?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have not

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.